

## **Initial Inspection of Directed Vehicles By Gold Shield and Test-Only Stations**

### **Questions and Answers**

1. Can a Gold Shield station post an official Smog Check Test-Only sign?

No.

2. Can I advertise my ability to inspect directed vehicles?

Yes. However, you may not mislead consumers. For instance, a sign that says "Test Only," is misleading because customers may think you are a Test-Only station. Statements such as "Now authorized to inspect Test-Only vehicles" or "We inspect Test-Only vehicles" are acceptable.

3. Why was this regulation change adopted?

By allowing Gold Shield stations to test directed vehicles, BAR provides consumers with more choices when seeking compliance with Smog Check program requirements.

4. Can a Gold Shield station in a Basic Area or Change of Ownership Area perform the initial inspection of directed vehicles?

Yes, provided the station is equipped with a full BAR97 Emission Inspection System, including a dynamometer.

5. Can I convert my Test-Only station to a Gold Shield station?

A Test-Only station cannot immediately convert its license to become a Gold Shield station. Regulations require that Gold Shield stations meet certain performance criteria, including having completed ten successful emissions repairs in a calendar quarter. Test-Only stations wishing to convert to Gold Shield status must first become licensed as a Test and Repair station, and have a quarter of data before they can apply to become a Gold Shield station.

6. Where can I find information on becoming a Gold Shield station?

BAR's Website. Go to [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov) and click on the Gold Shield sign on the right side of the page. The page contains the Gold Shield regulations and an application to become a Gold Shield station.



7. Can I own both a Gold Shield and Test-Only station?

Current regulations prohibit the ownership of a Gold Shield station and a Test-Only station located within 50 miles of each other.

8. Will the language on the DMV Registration Renewal Notice change?

Yes. DMV registration renewal notices are expected to be changed sometime in early 2008. The updated notice will indicate that directed vehicles may be taken to a Test-Only station or Gold Shield station for their Smog Check.

9. Have stations been notified of this change?

After the regulations were adopted, an ET Blast was sent to all licensed Smog Check stations on October 4, 2007.